आश्वासन दिया गया था कि पहले उसको बनाया जायेगा उसका क्या हुआ?

श्री सभापति : जब नया बनायें तो इस पर विचार करें।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन : जरूर विचार करेंगे।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: If, by any chance, a zone is created with headquarters at Bangalore, Guntur, Hubli, Solapur and other areas, which are hitherto in the South-Central Railway, are likely to be included in that zone. In that case, is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to see that the Waltair Division is delinked from the South-Eastern Railway and clubbed to the South-Central Railway to get more homogeneity in the working of the South-Central Railway Zone?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as this Bangalore Zone is concerned, we have not formulated anything as to from which railway what division should be added and so on and so forth. So far as the inclusion of Waltair in the South-Central Railway is concerned, operationally it is not possible.

*205. *[Transferred to 17th March, 1992]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 206.

*206 [The questioner (Shri Ashwani Kumar)] was absent. *[For answer* vide *col. No. 27 infra)*

Recommendations of Kelkar Committee on Gas Pricing

*207. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Kalkar Committee on gas pricing;

(b) what decisions have been taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have fixed a lower price of gas *vis-a-vis* the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee;

(d) whether the Gujarat Government has opposed the increased price of gas; and

(e) what was the price of gas during 1990-91?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalbhai M. Patel.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) (i) Price at landfall point: Rs. 1600/1000 M^3 plus increase by Rs. 200/1000 M^3 every year for 2 years.

(ii) Additional price on HBJ Pipeline: Rs. 850/1000 M^3

(iii) Price in North Eastern States: Rs. 1000/1000 M^3 with a discount of Rs. 400/1000 M^3 on case to case basis.

(b) (i) Price at landfall point: Rs. 1550/1000 M^3 plus increase by Rs. 100/1000 M^3 every year for 3 year.

(ii) Additional price on HBJ Pipeline. Rs. 850/1000 M^3

(iii) Price in North Eastern States: Rs. 1000/1000 M^3 with a discount of Rs. 400/1000 M^3 on case to case basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (i) Price at landfall point: 1400/1000 M^3

(ii) Additional price on HBJ: Rs. 850/1000 M^3

(iii) Price in North Eastern States: Rs. 1000/1000 M^3 with discount of Rs. 500/1000 M^3 on case to case basis.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: May I know from the hon. Minister...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Minister, please listen. Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what the criteria adopted are by the Kelkar Committee to finalise the process on this?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Committee had been given detailed terms of reference based on balancing the interests of suppliers and users, keeping in view the need for a remunerative return to the producer, etc. The recommendations of the Kelkar Committee were examined by a

committee of secretaries and ultimately, the price that has been fixed by Government is less than that recommended by the Kelkar Committee. The details of the pricing are given in the main answer. The criteria for consumer price is that it should be equated with the input price of the cheapest liquid hydrocarbon namely fuel oil.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the price which has been fixed by the Kelkar Commission is including the shipment charge. If the gas is imported, the shipment charge is also included in that price. But the gas is produced in India. It is not imported. Then, how can we include the shipment charge also while fixing the price of the gas?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Commission has examined both the import cost as well as the indigenous cost and have arrived at an equated price taking all these factors into consideration.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: How can you add the shipment charge when you are not importing it? When gas is produced in this country, how are you adding the price of imported gas?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Commission have examined the cost of production indigenously as well as the cost for imports and also the prices in other countries. All these factors have been taken into consideration in arriving at the recommendations. The shipment price is not included. The criteria they have used is the opportunity cost of gas. That is why this was mentioned.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: What about the shipment charge? How can you add the shipment charge?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have answered that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, "he has not included it".

Requirement of Natural Gas

*208. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of natural gas;

(b) the gap between demand and supply thereof;

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the demand;

(d) whether any time-bound plan for distribution of natural gas has been chalked out; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Against a demand of over 240 MMSCMD registered with GAIL, exclusive of allocations of around 92 MMSCMD already made, the supply potential by 1996-97 would be in the region of 80 MMSCMD.

(c) to (e) A number of oil and gas development projects have been taken up to augment the production of gas, as well as some projects for transportation and distribution of natural gas.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, from the Minister's reply, it is clear that the demand is far more than the anticipated supply as the things are on paper today. As the Minister knows, the natural gas is now a very important resource not only for fertilizer production but for power generation and for a whole stream of downstream petro-chemicals. I want to know from the Government whether there is an overall natural gas policy, as a part of the energy policy, because petroleum, oil and gas, are all under one Ministry. Of course, coal is under a different Ministry. Has the Government prepared a total policy framework in which we know for the next five or ten years, what would be the total gas available and how we can use the gas in an optimal manner. Related with this is the question of gas pricing for which I will put a separate question because fertilizer subsidy is engaging the attention of the country and unless gas pricing